

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08068 230937Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
/078 W

-----027258 230940Z /23

P R 230912Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1091
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8068

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, PINT, VN, CH
SUBJECT: ORGANIZED ETHNIC CHINESE BOAT ESCAPES FROM SRV TO
HONG KONG

1. REFUGEE BOAT WITH 131 ETHNIC CHINESE ARRIVED HONG KONG ON
JUNE 23. THIS IS THIRD LARGE ETHNIC CHINESE ARRIVAL FROM
VIETNAM THIS YEAR, PREVIOUS BEING 175 ON JUNE 7 AND 134 ON
JUNE 17.

2. WE INTERVIEWED THE GROUP OF 175 REFUGEES AND OBTAINED
FOLLOWING DETAILS. MANY WERE RESIDENTS OF DANANG, BUT OTHERS
WERE FROM DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES INCLUDING CHOLON AND HAIPHONG.
ESCAPE WAS ORGANIZED BY SINO-VIETNAMESE DANANG RESIDENT WHO
APPARENTLY IS KNOWN AMONG CHINESE COMMUNITIES. THE GROUP
PAID ORGANIZER TOTAL OF 800 TO 1,000 TAELES OF GOLD APPROXIMATELY
\$200,000 TO ORGANIZE TRIP. THE REGUEES SAIL FROM DANANG, BUT
TWO DAYS LATER ENGINE BRKE DOWN AND BOAT DRIFTED FOR ONE WEEK. A
VIETNAMESE FISHING BOAT STOPPED TO ASSIST AND TOWED
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REFUGEE BOAT BACK TO DANANG. TWO WEEKS LATER SAME
GROUP OF 175 SAILED FROM DANANG, BUT THIS TIME
ESCORTED BY TWO SRV GUNBOATS TO ASSURE SAFE DEPARTURE.

3. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO INTERVIEW GROUP OF 134 IN
ANY DEPTH, BUT PRELIMINARY INFORMATION IS THEIR TRIP
WAS ORGANIZED BY ANOTHER SINO-VIETNAMESE, A RELATIVE

OF ORGANIZER METNIONED ABOVE. THIS GROUP ALSO PAID
GOLD FOR ESCAPE FROM VIETNAM.

4. IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM INTERIVEWS THAT AT LEAST SOME BOAT
ESCAPES HAVE BECOME BUSINESS VENTURE AND THAT SRV
OFFICIALS IN DANANG ARE INVOLVED. SRV GOVT MAY BE
AWARE OF THIS, BUT CHOOSES TO IGNORE IT FOR VARIOS
REASONS, INCLUDING LARGE AMOUNT OF GOLD WHICH CAN BE
SQUEEZED FROM ETHNIC CHINESE. IT THIS IS SO, WE CAN
EXPECT MORE LARGE GROUPS OF ETHNIC CHINESE TO ARRIVE
IN HONG KONG THIS SUMMER. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK08068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780261-1273
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780627/aaaaawtx.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f89a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2230725
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORGANIZED ETHNIC CHINESE BOAT ESCAPES FROM SRV TO HONG KONG
TAGS: SREF, PINT, VN, CH, HK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f89a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014